MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: The information can be supplied only by reference. I claim notice.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know whether it has not been stated in the floor of the House that the retail licencees number came to 8000?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: Yes. That may approximately be the correct number.

Yarn distribution in Karunagapalli.

434. ✻MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that yarn distribution in Karunagapalli taluk by the Tahsildar causes very great hardship to the weavers?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: No.

MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI: May I know from the honourable member whether the answer gives the information in relation to the time of the question or the answer is with reference to the position obtaining now?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: I have not understood your question. You my please repeat.

MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI: May I know whether the answer is in relation to the time when the question was put, or only the present moment?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: Even at present.

MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI: May I know whether there was a committee constituted under the auspices of the Weavers' Association and the minutes sent to the Government?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: The Government are not aware.

MR. S. SANKARANARAYANAN TAMPI: May I know whether there is a Taluk Committee now?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: There are Taluk committees in all the taluks.

Standard cloth.

435. ✻MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state the total quantity of standard cloth (in yards) supplied to Travancore during the year 1943-44 and during the period January to June 1945?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR:

1. Quantity of standard cloth supplied during the year 1943-44—73,38,528 yards.
2. Quantity of standard cloth supplied during January to June 1945—2,45,988 yards.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: May I know whether the quantity mentioned in part (2) is still with the Government or has it been sold out?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: It is not with the Government.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Then, with whom? Is it with the private merchants or with the Textile Commissioner?

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MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: The standard cloths will be supplied to the merchants, the licensees.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Was it not supplied to Government direct or was it supplied to the private merchants direct?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: It is supplied to the licensees on the recommendation of the Taluk committee and they distribute it.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: May I know from where the Taluk Committees get it—whether it is imported into Travancore direct, or by the wholesale dealers?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: The Textile Commissioner, is intimated of the quota allowed for the State by the Provincial Textile Commissioner, Madras. Government chooses the importers on the recommendation of the Textile Commissioner. Importers give it to wholesalers who in their turn give to retailers. The wholesalers are appointed by the Textile Commissioner and the retailers are also appointed by him on the recommendation of the Taluk Committees.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: May I know whether any balance is lying with the Textile Commissioner now?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: No.

PRESIDENT: Is it not the practice Mr. Gopalan Nair, that persons distributing from the Government of India ask us to name certain dealers to whom those goods are sent?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: Yes, Sir. The wholesale importers are fixed by the Government—two wholesale importers every month.....

PRESIDENT: Order, order. The Government do not themselves handle the standard cloth. The Government of India ask us from time to time to give a list of wholesale dealers to whom that standard cloth should be sent. The Government have taken up the principle of not giving a monopoly to any one person or group of persons, but to give a list of the wholesale dealers to whom standard clothes are to be supplied. They select about roughly 40 to whom the standard cloth is sent by the Central authorities. The Government act merely as a kind of conduit-pipe or intermediary.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Sir, my question was whether there is any balance and whether it is being distributed to the merchants. I want to know whether anything is available for *Onam*.

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: We are asking the Government of India to allow us a special quota for distribution during the *Onam*. I am not quite sure whether we have got any balance left with the supply that has already been received.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: May I take it that there is no standard cloth still lying with any of the merchants; is that the position of the honourable Member? The Member is not in a position to give any definite information?

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MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Advocate-General*): Sir, on a point of order. That question is not fair, because that does not arise from this question.

PRESIDENT: Apart from that how is the Secretary likely to know the quantity available with any of the merchants, because the sale is not conducted under the auspices of the Government?

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: No, Sir: the Textile Commissioner is distributing to the Taluk Committee and the whole thing is controlled. Now, we are not in a position to get anything. I want to know whether anything is lying idle.

PRESIDENT: We will ascertain and let you know.

Yardage of cloth to population.

436 *MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the total yardage of cloth allotted to the population of Travancore by the Government of India;

(*b*) on what basis this quota is allocated;

(*c*) the basis on which cloth quota is allocated to the Province of Bengal; Bombay and Punjab by the Textile Commissioner to the Government of India;

(*d*) whether the total yardage of cloth allotted to Travancore was imported in 1943-44; and

(*e*) the yardage of cloth imported during the period January to June 1945?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: (*a*) 17,36,000 yards.

(*b*) The basis is 10 yards per annum per head of the population but actually we are getting less.

(*c*) 12 to 15 yards.

(*d*) No allotment was made till the beginning of 1945.

(*e*) 43,07,000 yards.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Sir, in answer to part (*a*) it is stated "17,36,000 yards". Am I to take it that the yardage is for one month?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: No, for the whole year.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: If it is for the whole year, are we not actually getting less, when according to answer (*b*) it will be remembered that we require 6 crores of yards—Why is that discrepancy?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: We are not getting what we ask for. We are getting only less.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: When was this quota allotted?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: August 1943.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Sir, referring to part (*e*) has the whole quantity been imported into Travancore—43 odd lakhs?

MR. T. K. GOPALAN NAIR: Yes.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: What steps have been taken by Government in getting the amount we want?

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